

## Water Banking – WRAC Meeting October 14, 2019

We are engaged in strategic planning around water banking. Primarily, we're trying to assess what role water banking should play in our state, identify current roadblocks or challenges towards accomplishing that goal, then potentially develop policy recommendations to effectuate changes. Before we get too far down this path, we would like to ask for your opinion on the issues, including any concerns or priorities you may have.

### *Discussion Questions:*

1. After 15+ years of experience water banking in Washington State, we all have learned a lot. How do you think we should adjust our focus on water banking? What improvements could we make to make it more effective?
2. Water banking has the potential for having negative externalities (or negative side effects). What, if any, side effects worry you? Have you seen or experienced any projects in which these side effects manifested? What, if any, regulatory tools would you recommend to protect against these side effects?
3. There is a significant workload for Ecology associated with all stages of bank development. Requests for developing water banks sometimes come from areas that do not have the greatest need for banks to facilitate water reallocation.
  - a. Do you think it's the state's role to prioritize transfers for some banks over others? If so, what regulatory tools would accomplish this?
  - b. Do you think it's appropriate for Ecology to charge a fee to recover associated costs?
4. What else should Ecology consider when thinking about how to improve our statewide strategy regarding water banking?